coastal areas are considered under Environmental Impact Assessment Notification and/or Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991. Such projects are accorded clearance under the said notifications after incorporating appropriate Environment Management Plan. As far as construction of illegal hotels are concerned the respective State/Jnion Territory Coastal Zone Management Authority have been delegated necessary powers to take action against such violations under the provisions of Environment Protection Act, 1986.

(b) Since due concerns are taken while according environmental clearance to the projects, there is no significant destruction of environment, hence the fishermen loosing the livelihood does not arise.

(c) The projects which have been accorded clearance under the said notifications are monitored regularly and wherever necessary environmental conservation and management measures are incorporated.

Withdrawal of **ban** on **trade of tigers**

†1259. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China is demanding for the withdrawal of ban imposed on the trade of tigers;

(b) whether the issue of continuing the ban imposed on organs trade was raised in the meeting of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) to protect the species of tigers; and

(c) the efforts being made to stop poaching of tigers and to make changes in the Wildlife Protection Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No official intimation in this regard has been received.

(b) Yes Sir. During the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES (Convention on International Trade, in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), which was held from 3rd to 15th June, 2007 at The Hague, India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, which was adopted with minor amendments. The said resolution, *interalia,* has directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. Further, India made an intervention appealing to China for phasing out tiger farming, and eliminating stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized.

(c) The Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 has been amended during 2006 to provide enabling provisions for creating the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau, which have

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

already been constituted for strengthening tiger conservation and protection of our wildlife. The penalties for offence relating to tiger reserves have been made more stringent. Details are given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of steps taken by Government to protect wild tiger

The steps taken by the Government to protect wild tiger from, depletion are as below:-

Legal steps

1. Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for providing enabling provisions for constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau. The punishment in cases of offence within a tiger reserve has been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that has been used for committing any wild life offence.

Administrative steps

2. Strengthening of antipoaching activities, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to Tiger Reserve States, as proposed by them, for deployment of antipoaching squads involving ex-army personnel/home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication/wireless facilities.

3. Constitution of the" National Tiger Conservation Authority with effect from 4.09.2006, for strengthening tiger conservation by, *inter alia,* ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan, laying down annual/audit report before Parliament, constituting State level Steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.

4. Constitution of a multidisciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from 6.6.2007 comprising of officers from Police, Forest, Customs and other enforcement agencies to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife.

5. In principle approval accorded for declaring eight new Tiger Reserves.

Financial steps

6. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

International Cooperation

7. India has a Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.

8. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

9. During the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES, which was held from 3rd to 15th June, 2007 at The Hague, India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, which contains directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. The resolution was adopted with minor amendments. Further, India made an intervention appealing to China to phase out tiger farming, and eliminate stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized.

Prevention of forest fire

1260. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effective strategies have been worked out in consultation with the State Government for prevention, detection and control of forest fire in the State of Kerala; and

(b) the damage caused by fires during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Under the Centrally Sponsored, Integrated Forest Protection Scheme, financial assistance on sharing basis is provided to States/JTs for various protection related measures including prevention, detection and control of forest fire.

(b) The details of damage caused by fires during the last three years, year-wise is as under:

Year	No. of incidents	Loss due to fire (Rs. In lakhs)
2004-05	70	0.12
2005-06	341	1.05
2006-07	426	2.56

Creation of a separate Ministry

1261. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to create a separate Ministry for wildlife;

(b) whether a group of 140 tiger experts and NGOs have also demanded for creation of a separate Ministry for wildlife;